

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed on December 20, 2006. Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are currently pending in the application, with Claim 1 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, Claim 5 has been amended. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely Claims 1-11 and 13-17, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, the Examiner has correctly indicated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation “said antenna” in Claim 5.

The Applicants have amended Claims 5 in a manner believed to overcome the objection of the Examiner. In particular, Claim 5 was amended to remove the recitation “said antenna” and to include the recitation “an antenna.” Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,109,568 to Gilbert et al. (hereinafter “Gilbert”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,985 to Houskamp (hereinafter “Houskamp”). The rejection with respect to Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-17 is respectfully traversed.

Gilbert is directed to an automated electrified monorail system 100 having a monorail 20, a vehicle 10 and a system controller 20. See FIG. 1. Movement of vehicle 10 is controlled through a wireless radio-frequency Ethernet network which contains the system controller 20 and the remote controller 70. See FIG. 1 and Column 4, lines 33-47. The Examiner concedes that Gilbert "lack the carriers containing means for traveling in both a first direction along the path and along a second direction opposite the first direction, thereby permitting bidirectional travel." It is respectfully submitted that Houskamp does not cure the deficiencies of Gilbert.

Houskamp is directed to a speed control arrangement 100 having a motor apparatus 101 for controlling the speed and direction of motion of a vehicle via the application of energizing signals to motor 101. See FIG. 1 and Column 5, lines 14-40. Houskamp does not disclose or suggest "a real time close loop interrupt driven position monitoring system that senses the passage of a carrier at a location," as recited by independent Claim 1. In contrast, Houskamp discloses a proportional speed control arrangement for adjusting and maintaining the velocity of self-propelled vehicles. Thus, it is Applicants' position that Housekamp merely adjusts and maintains the velocity of the vehicle and it does not provide for sensing the passage of a carrier at a location, as described in Applicants' claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter recited by Applicant's claims is patentable over Gilbert, Houskamp and the combination thereof. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested; allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilbert as modified by Houskamp as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,328 to Judd.

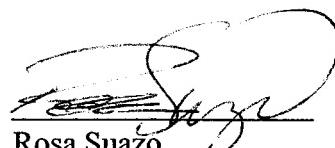
It is respectfully submitted that Claim 5 is patentable for at least the reasons that independent Claim 1 is patentable, as discussed hereinabove. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 5 is respectfully requested and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 1-11 and 13-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



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